IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Biebel et al.

Serial No.:

10/581,938

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Examiner:

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Customer No.:

27623

Attorney Docket No.:

2133.134USU

Date:

March 13, 2007

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

37 C.F.R. 1.98 does not require a copy of U.S. patents or published U.S. patent applications to be included with an information disclosure statement. Accordingly, Applicant is not including a copy of any U.S. patent or published U.S. patent application.

We are also enclosing copies of the non-US references listed on the attached PTO-1449.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of the first Office Action based on the merits, no petition or fee is required.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>. CUSTOMER NO.: 27623 FORM PTO-1449 Docket Number (Optional) Application Number 2133.134USU 10/581,938 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION Applicant IN AN APPLICATION Biebel et al. Filing Date Group Art Unit (Use several sheets if necessary) June 7, 2006 Not Yet Assigned **U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS EXAMINER** FILING DATE IF INITIAL DOCUMENT DATE NAME **CLASS SUBCLASS APPROPRIATE** NUMBER 4306768 12/22/81 Egging 350 174 5694260 12/2/97 Houston 359 850 6262441 7/17/01 Böhler et al. 257 103 6447122 9/10/02 Kobayashi et al. 353 97 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Translation **DOCUMENT** DATE COUNTRY CLASS SUBCLASS YES NO NUMBER WO03075369 V 9/12/03 PCT (w/Abstract) H01L 51/20 OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) International Search Report dated February 25, 2005. Written Opinion of the International Search Report based on corresponding International application number PCT/EP2004/014357. **EXAMINER** DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.